

**FRIENDLY
CONNECTIONS**

State College Friends Meeting

**April 2016
Newsletter**



*State College Friends Meeting
611 East Prospect Ave.
State College, PA 16801
Phone (814) 237-7051*

Notes

If your gift includes words, images, or just honest thoughts, please send them to the Newsletter email address: SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com

~ Brosi

Announcements

First Day (Sunday), 4/3/2016 - 9:00 am Meeting for Worship for Business

10:45 am First Day School

10:45 am Gather for Meeting for Worship

11:00 am Meeting for Worship

12:20 pm Pot Luck

► SCFM Religious Education

We are blessed that Sunny Rehler has agreed to be our Interim RE Coordinator for March through June. He has already started in his role and is excited to be taking on this task for us. Get to know Sunny; he will light up your day! Kerry Wiessmann, Member of the hiring committee

► **Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology**, reconnecting soul, self and Earth, bearing witness to our global moment, with speaker Janna Macy, May 27-30, 2016, Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa. Information: <http://fcrp.quaker.org/>

► **Art at Foxdale**: I'm excited to share my love of the central PA landscape in a solo exhibition right here in State College! Thirty of my recent paintings will be showcased at Foxdale, until April 25. I welcome you to view the exhibit during the gallery hours below.

Gallery Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8 am - 5 pm; Sat.-Sun. noon-4 pm

Alice Kelsey, Artist, www.alicekelsey.com

► On April 16th a workshop on "**Friends Decision-Making Process**" will be presented by Arthur Larrabee at the Meeting House, with Friends gathering at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will begin at 9:00 and go to 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Some of the topics Arthur will guide us through include:

- What is a sense of the meeting process and how is it different from consensus?
- What is a sense of the meeting?
- Framing a sense of the meeting when there are divergent voices
- Moving through impasse in special situations, and
- Qualities of a good discernment.

Please fill out the registration form and return it to the Meetinghouse office. Please register by April 3rd

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

DO YOU NEED CHILDCARE? YES NO

If yes, for how many children and their ages: _____

We request a contribution of \$25 per person to cover costs.

Check Enclosed I will pay upon arrival I request scholarship assistance

► **Our Changing Community, challenges to & opportunities in affordable housing**, April 14, 5-7 pm, Foxdale Village. Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition presents a program on affordable housing in Centre County.

Registration: <<http://goo.gl/VdCisl>> <http://goo.gl/VdCisl>

► State College Friends Meeting is offering a workshop: **The Language of God: Finding the Presence of the Divine.**

The workshop is being held at Foxdale Retirement Village on Friday, May 13th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and Saturday, May 14th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Facilitators are Yuri Plowden from State College Friends Meeting and Mary Jackson Clark from Sandy Springs Friends Meeting. A donation of \$15.00 is requested to cover expenses.

Discover how the Spirit speaks to you revealing your innermost spiritual state as we explore this concept through discussion, small group sharing, and examination of waking and sleeping dreams, beloved fairy tales, and stories. Participants will learn to recognize how God speaks to them in ways they have previously overlooked.

Friday night a simple dinner will be served; Saturday a simple breakfast and a simple lunch will be served.

To register, contact Dorothy Habecker, <<mailto:dorothyhab@gmail.com>> dorothyhab@gmail.com. There is a maximum number of participants that we can accommodate, so please register early.

Directions and other housekeeping details will be emailed to you when you register.

Calendar

Apr.1-3 SCFM Black Moshannon winter camping

Apr.9 SCFM Saturday Social, Housing Transitions fundraiser

Apr.16 SCFM "Friends Decision Making Workshop" with Arthur Larrabee, 8:30 am-3:30 pm

Apr.29-May1 PYM Young Friends & Middle School Friends, Camp Swatara

Apr.30 PYM Monthly Meeting Clerks' Gathering, 9 am-3:15 pm, Newtown Friends Meeting

May 1 Spring Interfaith Picnic, noon-3 pm, Sunset Park

May 13-14 SCFM Ministry & Worship Workshop- The Language of God: Finding the Presence of the Divine

May 14 SCFM Saturday Social, Women's Resource Center fundraiser

May 21-22 PYM Spring Family Overnight, May 21-22, Camp Dark Waters

July 3-9 2016 FGC Gathering at College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, Mn

July 27-31 PYM Annual Sessions

Sept.17 SCFM Saturday Social, Park Forest Pre-School fundraiser

******Friends School Board and Newsletter committees will be responsible for refreshments in April.**

Habitat for Humanity HouseWalk - April 24th, 2016

We were contacted by Eric Lippincott, a member at University Baptist & Brethren Church inviting us to join in the effort. Below are excerpts of his letter:

In its early days, Habitat for Humanity staged numerous long walks to bring attention to the new ministry. In 1983, a group of local volunteers launched an unstoppable movement to raise awareness in support of the critical housing issues facing the Centre-Clearfield-Clinton county region. It took a little more than a year to raise funding, secure a property, identify a qualified partner family, and recruit hundreds of volunteers to provide the hands-on volunteer labor needed. The first home, located in Bellefonte, was dedicated in 1985.

Since then, the local organization has served nearly 70 families by building/renovating homes for our first-time homebuyer program. Additionally, as part of HFHGCC's affiliation with Habitat for Humanity International, we have helped to support another 86 families internationally through our annual tithe contribution. The local affiliate has collectively helped more than 150 families in our 30+ year history!

Just like the old days, we're still staging walks. HouseWalk 2016 will take place Sunday, April 24th at Tudek Memorial Park. Please consider supporting HFHGCC's HouseWalk by either joining us for the walk or by supporting one of our many participants with a financial contribution.

Information on setting up a team and help with fundraising is here:

<http://habitathousewalk2016.causevox.com/>

I am happy to speak with a specific individual or group of people from your congregation if you provide me their name and contact information.

Thanks, in advance, for your support - Eric Lippincott

THINKING ABOUT RACE (April 2016) – One Black Friend’s Experience

This month’s “Thinking About Race” item is from our own home territory. An African-American woman, a member of Friends Meeting of Washington, sent to the BYM Working Group on Racism her story of a recent episode with the police.

“I got pulled over by a white state policeman on I-66 yesterday. I have rarely been so terrified in my life. I was simply tooling along my 5-mile stretch, doing nothing that should have caused me to be pulled over. I was so upset I could hardly speak. I cracked my window, and when he said I should lower it more, I said, ‘Why, so you can shoot me through the window? I don't think so.’ So then he said he couldn't hear me, so I said, ‘I'll shout.’ I told him I was afraid for my life and he asked why. I said because you white policemen are murdering us. He told me a video and audiotape were being made of the stop, to which I responded, ‘Why, so you can lose it later?’ He finally explained he pulled me over because my registration had expired - which turned out to be true. I thought it was February but it's January. I've never been pulled over for that. How would he know? He couldn't have read those little stickers on my license plate from that far away. I figure he ran my plates because I was black - in other words, he was profiling. Anyway, he recited some prepared lines you could tell were for the video - like, have I done anything to frighten you? and did I tell you why I pulled you over? and so on - and eventually gave me my citation and a number to call if I wanted to lodge a complaint about how he handled himself, and he kept on going until I told him to leave me alone before I had a heart attack from fear - upon which he wanted to know if I needed him to call for assistance - at which point I'm practically crying and yelling, ‘Just go away.’ I felt utterly helpless. I couldn't think of anything to do to help myself. I kept thinking Sandra Bland was pulled

over for a signal light and a few days later she was dead. I have an only child. I'm all he has. What if they killed me?

“Ten, twenty, even thirty years ago, I would not have feared for my life. Being arrested for nothing maybe, but not being murdered outright. According to the United Nations Human Rights Commission Working Group report, my son and I would be safer in my home country of Nigeria (provided we stayed out of Boko Haram's territory) than in the USA.”

White Friends are, of course, also sometimes stopped by the police. Unlike African-American Friends, however, white Friends can be pretty sure they were not stopped because of their race. They also do not need to wonder whether their race will make the officer so fearful or antagonistic that their lives are at risk.

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each Monthly and Preparative Meeting for publication in their newsletter or other means of dissemination. The WGR meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Locations vary to allow access to more Friends. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Personal Spiritual Life

Do you make time for meditation, prayer and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in turn?



QUERIES
QUERIES

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Care for the Meeting Community, Care for one another

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?

Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?

Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?

Care in my home

(This set of personal queries may be helpful for the family to consider within the family setting. Families may also wish to explore other General Queries as part of regular family worship.)

Is my home a place where all members of the family receive affection and understanding, and where visitors are welcome? Do I choose recreation and a manner of living that enriches the body, mind, and spirit; and shows a high regard for family, community, and creation?

Is our family prepared to discuss such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, even sex and drugs, in a manner that allows openness and honesty, and also direction?

How do I help to arrange life at home so that there is an opportunity for all to learn and absorb by example what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment?

STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

Third Month 6th, 2016

Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries on The Meeting Community from Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs?

A special supplemental Query was also read:

What does it mean to be a welcoming, vibrant, Quaker community with shared purpose?

One Friend responded that the Meeting is part of her extended family. She felt it is important that people didn't just care about each other that day, but all week. It saddened her that everyone did not feel that way and were not stepping forward to help. We need to help each other while here and the rest of the week too.

Another Friend said that it has come to her over the past 6 months that pieces are missing in Quaker Meeting and one in particular is challenging. It came from a comment made by a prior attender at Meeting who said, "it's hard to be spiritually nurtured as a Quaker because you have to do it all yourself." Some Meetings have mentors who help with spiritual journeys. Another possibly missing piece is service to the community. It's a challenge for us, but we need to be doing the work that shows in the community. It's not all about self-service but working together and feeling like a team.

A Quaker another Friend heard speak asked what is the best way to quicken spiritual life? There are two ways. First, go to Meeting for Worship and then go do something worthwhile in the world. The second way is to do something worthwhile in the world, and then go to Meeting for Worship.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

A review of December Business Meeting minutes was added.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Ad Hoc Committee on Called Meeting

Claudia Wilson reported. The reason for the committee came from a concern for the health and vitality of the Meeting. After looking at different ways to address this, the Committee decided to try to do it over time.

Therefore the Query they wrote was read in Business Meeting and discussions were planned during potluck. The Committee will then reconvene and decide where to go after today.

Meeting approved the reading of the special Query in Meeting for Worship that day.

Responses included a request that the query be emailed to everyone, with a request for a response. Another person suggested that people be allowed to respond in writing to the query. The query could also be responded to during Joys and Sorrows. Someone else wondered if the query would be taken to Foxdale and Friends School, and another Friend said that if each of us took the query to one Foxdale person we could reach all of them. It would be a way to go deeper and hear wisdom. A Foxdale Friend reminded us that it should happen only if the Foxdale person wanted to participate.

Finance Committee

Connie Wheeler, treasurer, said that last month we approved the new contract with Friends Fiduciary but one of the new procedures is that approval must be recorded in the Business Meeting for Worship minutes if money is taken out of any funds. At this time we need to move \$1500 from the Ferguson Fund to pay for cabins at Black Moshannon.

Meeting approved moving \$1500 from the Ferguson Fund at Friends Fiduciary into the checking account.

Kerry Wiessmann reported for Finance Committee. After bringing in less money than was budgeted for the last two years, the Committee felt the Meeting needed to look at the amounts being sent to PYM, BYM and USQ.

The current budget is for USQ to receive \$2820, \$11,800 to PYM (62% of our members) and \$4,900 to BYM (38% of our members). This year PYM is requesting the same as last year. BYM has lowered its request to \$3970. We are therefore paying PYM proportionately more than we pay BYM. USQ more directly benefits the Meeting as its funds go toward subsidizing Camp Crystal Lake attendance for families, USQ events, spiritual formation activities, the Quaker Cloud, insurance, etc. so Finance Committee felt we should continue giving to USQ.

The total current amount of money given to Quarterly and Yearly Meetings is \$19,600. The Meeting budget was short \$9000 in contributions this past year and \$10,000 the year before. Bequest funds cushioned the budget the past two years but there is no bequest cushion this year.

Finance Committee recommended the following changes. Change the contribution to USQ to \$2000, an \$820 reduction. Since there is no longer a coordinator to pay, this should not be a hardship. Send \$4000 to BYM, which is what they requested. Send \$7000 to PYM, a \$4800 reduction that is

still 71% of the Meeting's contributions to yearly meetings when the percentage of members is 62%. They also recommended giving BYM camps \$1000 since our members use this service often. The total would be \$14,000, a \$5600 reduction from what has been budgeted. \$14,000 is 20% of our total budget. The previous total of \$19,800 is 28% of our budget.

Kerry went on to note that the renovation of the basement should allow us to rent it and gain more income, hopefully \$2000 this year. The fundraising dinners will hopefully bring in \$2500 for donations to agencies. This year our electricity should go down to almost nothing as compared to estimated \$1800 in the past. However, that has already been considered in the budget.

PYM has asked, for planning purposes, what we are giving this year so we need to respond. The Finance Committee recommends we tell them \$7000 and if we have more money at the end of the year we could give PYM more money. Kerry would craft a letter that says we do it reluctantly and will do more if we can.

Business Meeting discussed the proposal. One Friend said that it is carefully thought out and documented. She reminded us that PYM is the face of Quakers all over the world.

The clerk questioned whether the renovation of the basement has been approved. Larry Greenleaf, clerk of Buildings and Grounds, said there were three financial levels to finishing the basement: getting it safe, getting

it to what it was, or getting it so that its use will increase. Ironically, money could be requested from a PYM fund to help with costs.

Some discomfort was expressed about the increase to BYM camps along with the decrease to PYM, and then subsequently asking PYM for assistance. Another Friend agreed and felt the camp money should go to PYM. Someone suggested splitting the money and giving \$500 to camps and \$500 to PYM.

Kerry noted that we are still paying relatively more to PYM than BYM when USQ and the camps are included, based on membership distribution. Another Friend noted that USQ gets no money from PYM, but it is part of PYM and supports PYM.

After discussion, the Meeting approved the following minute:

Meeting approves the suggested contribution to USQ (total \$2000), and the two yearly meetings, with a \$500 increase to PYM (total \$7500) and a \$500 decrease to BYM camps (total \$500). BYM will receive what they requested (total \$4000). We entrust Kerry Wiessmann to compose a letter to PYM and will encourage members to give to the yearly meeting of their choice.

One of the Friends present expressed thanks to the Finance Committee for laying the choices out so clearly.

Report on Saturday Socials

Kerry Wiessmann reported. She is looking for coordinators for upcoming dinners. Yuri Plowden has volunteered for April 9th and Connie Wheeler for 9/17. They need help with 3/19 and 5/14. Yuri volunteered to also do 3/19. Claudia Wilson is doing publicity.

The fall Harvest Dinner will be the 3rd weekend of October. They need a committee to help Dorothy Habecker and Kerry Wiessmann. Please let one of them know if you are willing to be on the committee.

Peace and Social Action

Committee of the whole reported.

Cy deVries announced a workshop and conference on Advancing African Girls Through Education and Empowerment. It will be held on April 18, 19, and 20 at Juniata College.

Lynne Grutzeck reported that Interfaith Human Services has been receiving less money from churches. There is a dinner at Hoss' that will give a % of what you spend for dinner to Interfaith.

Renee Crauder said Foxdale staff and residents had a ping pong contest in honor of Dean Tuttle.

Kerry Wiessman reminded Friends that there will be a Peace Walk on 3/20 at 3:00. People are to gather at UBBC at 2:45 and walk to the United Church of Christ where soup will be served. They will stop along the way at various organizations. It will be people of all ages and faiths.

Kerry also announced an LGBTQA dance/prom to be held on Saturday April 23rd. It is \$35 a ticket, \$20 for students. Kerry has tickets to sell.

Buildings and Grounds

Larry Greenleaf reported. As we review renovations he hopes we will remember two things: the spiritual part of making changes, and the nuts and bolts. He has been remembering how the Meeting room was painted and carpeted, and the energy that went into it and the money that made it happen. He hopes everyone will want to do the same for the garden level. He hopes this work speaks to each person.

Part of the “nuts and bolts” has been resolving the mold problem. Larry reviewed the history that includes hiring a contract manager, doing major demolition, removing the mold, and coating the walls for long term prevention. The post-remedial air test was satisfactory. One question, however, was since we have air circulators, could they have clouded the results? The testers were generally happy with the results but they recommended additional cleaning, and found issues in the apartment with mold in the kitchen and bedroom. These areas were not part of the contract. So the Meeting needs to take care of the removal of more parts.

The contractor also has more work to do, including removal of parts of walls. The connection points between the upstairs and the downstairs need to be sealed. Pennsylvania Basements will continue outside work in the spring.

The Committee will be scheduling a spring cleanup in April. A request from Ann Sidone, clerk of Worship and Ministry, is that it not be April 16th when the Arthur Larrabee workshop is scheduled.

Clerk Selden Smith noted the quality of our worship is a group effort, but so is the quality of our building. He wondered about having Meeting for Worship one First Day at the garden level. Another Friend remembered that it took a lot of work to reach unity on the Meeting room changes and we need to be tender as we begin to think about changes in the garden level.

Care and Concern

Claudia Wilson reported they are finalizing the job description for the Religious Education clerk. They have sent out the young adult membership letter and have heard back from one young adult.

Worship and Ministry

Ann Sidone reported. Members of Worship and Ministry will continue to work with Ben Wideman, the Mennonite pastor at Penn State, and Sarah Malone on developing a meeting for peace. Meanwhile, Worship and

Ministry would like to suggest that Friends attend the Interfaith picnic at Sunset Park on May 1 in lieu of our usual potluck.

Meeting approved to cancel the May 1st potluck and encourage Friends to attend the Interfaith Human Services potluck at Sunset Park at the rise of Meeting.

Coming soon: Registration for “Decision-making Process Among Friends” workshop with Arthur Larrabee on Saturday, April 16. We will gather at 8:30 for refreshments and fellowship, and the workshop will run from 9:00 -3:30.

Dorothy Habecker and Yuri Plowdon are working on a “Language of God” workshop for the Meeting on May 13-14. It will be held at Foxdale.

We have begun to work on the Spiritual State of the Meeting report for 2015. If you have input, please direct it to Ann Sidone.

Meeting for Worship will be held in Foxdale’s auditorium at 11:15 on April 24.

A Friend familiar with the Interfaith Human Services potlucks reminded Friends that pork should not be used and any dish should be labeled with the type of meat. The preference for food is vegetarian.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Outdoor Performance

Kersey Bradley requested placing two of his sculptures of New Age Christian Art outside of the Meeting House for Easter.

Meeting approved Kersey putting two of his sculptures outside over Easter.

Kersey also noted that he heard Horst DeLorenzi and a friend play music recently and he would like to have an event at the Meeting sometime in the spring. There would be music and dancing on the patio.

Foxdale Meeting for Worship

Cy deVries reminded everyone that MFW is held at Foxdale at 10:15 in the Nurse's Conference Center every First Day. Residents really appreciate having other Friends attend.

Friendly Folk Dance

The Friendly Folk Dancers wish to come to the Meeting on Tuesday 4/26 or Wednesday 4/27. There would not be a fee, but they do pass the hat. The key to their coming is finding hospitality for 6 to 9 people. Please let Kerry know if you can provide hospitality.

OTHER FRIENDS' ORGANIZATIONS

Selden Smith reported that Friends Committee on National Legislation had sent a report and a list of legislative priorities. Friends General Conference announced its annual gathering on 7/3 to 7/9/16 at St. Joseph, Minnesota. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will have continuing sessions on 3/19. PYM sent a plea for the Meeting to send someone.

REVIEW OF DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for December 2015 and February 2016 were approved.

Next Business Meeting for Worship: April 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk

Margy Frysinger, Recording Clerk

Attending:

Connie Wheeler

Kerry Wiessmann

Polly Dunn

Yuri Plowden

Lynne Grutzeck

Kersey Bradley

N. (Sunny) Rehler

Larry Greenleaf

Elizabeth Pennock

Cy Merriweather deVries

Claudia Wilson

Ann Sidone

Gary Fosmire

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RETURN REQUESTED